Refusal by Russian State to Supply Fertilizers under Contract

1855. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Russian State agency has threatened to renege on a contract to supply one lakh tonnes of potassic fertilisers to India if export proceeds are continued to be adjusted against technical credits;

(b) whether as per contract signed with the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC), the money has to be channeled through the Russian Central Bank;

(c) what was the purpose for which this fertilizer was intended;

(d) whether there had been other such contracts also where the Russian agencies had threatened to renege in the new set up; and

(e) if so, what are the particulars thereof and Government's reaction in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The import of fertilizer was intended to meet the domestic requirement of Potash, which is an essential plant nutrient.

(d) and (e) The contracts signed by MMTC for import of MOP from Russia and Urea from Belarus are now to be executed through Escrew mechanism by which the import proceeds would be utilised for exports of Indian products to these countries

Rubber Plantation in Arunachal Pradesh

1856. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Arunachal Pradesh Forests Corporation has started rubber plantation in non-traditional areas of Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, how many hectares of land has been brought under rubber plantation;

(c) whether a Zonal Office of the Rubber Board is proposed to be set up in Arunachal Pradesh; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Arunachal Pradesh Forest Corporation has planted rubber on an area of 41 hectares.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Reaction of Different Bodies over Dunkel's Draft Package

1857. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA :

SHRI M. A. BABY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 73 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th February, 1992 and state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the widespread resentment amongst the Trade Unions, political parties and commerce experts over the Arthur Dunkel's draft package on the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations on GATT and position of Government in this regard; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Government have held consultations on the Dunkel proposals with a wide cross-section of the public including economists, opinion makers and representatives of the political parties. Views have been expressed both in support of and against the proposals contained in the Dunkel text. Government will take all views into account before finalising its stand in respect of the Dunkel proposals. Once the stand is finalised, Government will participate in further negotiations in the Uruguay Round at Geneva to ensure that our interests are safeguarded.